

Week Ending Friday, June 8, 2001

Statement on the Terrorist Bombing in Tel Aviv

June 1, 2001

I condemn in the strongest terms the heinous terrorist attack in Tel Aviv this Sabbath evening. There is no justification for senseless attacks against innocent civilians. This illustrates the urgent need for an immediate, unconditional cessation of violence. I call upon Chairman Arafat to condemn this act and to call for an immediate cease fire. My deepest condolences and those of the American people go out to the victims and their families.

NOTE: This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

The President's Radio Address

June 2, 2001

Good morning. Over the last few months I have often used this radio time to advocate major tax relief. Today I'm pleased to report success. Soon Congress will send me a bill reducing Federal income taxes by \$1.35 trillion over the next 11 years, and I will proudly sign it.

Under the new law, more than 98 million Americans who pay income taxes will be owed a refund. This year most single taxpayers will receive checks for \$300; single-parent taxpayers will receive up to \$500; and married couples will receive a check for up to \$600. Over the next 10 years, the per-child tax credit will double from \$500 to \$1,000; the marriage penalty will be reduced; and the death tax will be completely abolished.

Some other provisions of the tax bill haven't received quite as much attention. But they will make a great difference in the lives of many Americans. For low income families, the child tax credit will now be partially refundable. Right now, many poor families don't qualify for the credit because they don't

pay income taxes at all. Soon, they will receive a tax credit to help meet the cost of raising their children.

The new tax law also encourages higher contributions to retirement plans. In years to come, you'll have the chance to put more money into your IRA or 401k. You can better prepare for your later years, sending less of your money to Washington and more into your own savings.

I'm especially pleased by what these reforms will do for families that adopt children. Adoptive parents have a special calling, giving a loving home to children who otherwise would have none. The new law will double the maximum adoption tax credit to \$10,000 and make the credit permanent. And regardless of their expenses, parents who adopt children with special needs will be able to claim this tax credit in the year the adoption is completed.

Tax relief is an important bipartisan achievement. And now we must build on that momentum to improve our public schools. We are within reach of historic education reform. So far, the signs are very good. Both parties have been working together, and I hope both parties will vote together, as well.

The plan I have sent to Congress stresses local control of schools, instead of trying to run the schools from Washington. The plan calls for accountability, requiring that every school set high standards and measure results. My plan gives flexibility to schools in meeting these standards and more freedom to parents in making their own choices.

Skeptics may claim that these education reforms are too much to hope for, but that's what used to be said about tax relief. The truth is that real reform is possible, if we lay our partisan differences aside and work together in the interests of the American people.

Thank you for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 11:45 a.m. on May 31 in the Cabinet Room at the White

House for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on June 2. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on June 1 but was embargoed for release until the broadcast. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this address.

Statement on the Death of King Birenda of Nepal

June 2, 2001

I am deeply saddened and shocked at King Birenda's untimely death. I also mourn the loss of Queen Aiswarya and other family members and extend my deepest sympathies to the King's extended family. I send my condolences to the Nepalese people during this difficult period. Our prayers are with the Government and people of Nepal.

Proclamation 7446—National Child's Day, 2001

June 2, 2001

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Our children, who are today dreaming big dreams and who are filled with hope, will someday serve as leaders in government, industry, education, and the arts. For the good of our country and its continued progress and advancement, we must strive to give all young Americans the best possible start in life.

Falling between Mother's Day and Father's Day, Child's Day is celebrated this year on June 3, the first Sunday of the month. This special occasion gives us a unique opportunity to remember the joys and wonder of our own childhood and to reflect on how positive and healthy experiences in one's early years significantly influence later achievements and happiness.

All adults must work together to ensure the safety and well-being of our Nation's most precious resource, our children. Every youngster deserves to live in a safe, permanent, and caring family; but, unfortunately, this is not always the case. Government cannot make people love one another, but it can

and must cultivate a climate that helps families, as well as the individuals and groups that support them.

Our Nation must reaffirm its commitment to loving and caring for our children. We must improve the safety of schools and neighborhoods and mobilize faith-based and community groups to fight poverty and addiction. Because many youngsters now grow up in single-parent homes, we must promote responsible fatherhood, in all its aspects, including spiritual leadership, emotional security, and financial support. We must also help families in crisis, protect children from abuse and neglect, and encourage adoption for children who must be removed from their biological parents.

Our responsibility to our young people, however, extends beyond just their physical and emotional well-being. We must also provide them with a quality education, so that no child is left behind in our fast-paced global economy. Adults should also encourage youngsters to always set high goals, make right choices, and stay involved in their communities. By doing so, boys and girls can pursue lives of meaning and fulfillment as contributing members of society.

Every child in every neighborhood has unique gifts to offer. We must nurture our children's dreams, help them develop their talents and abilities, and ensure their healthy development so that they may reach their full potential. Our success in this vital endeavor will affect the direction of their lives and the future strength and vitality of our Nation.

In recognition of the importance of our Nation's children, the Senate, by Senate Resolution 90 approved May 25, 2001, has designated June 3, 2001, as "National Child's Day" and has requested that the President issue a Proclamation calling for appropriate ceremonies and activities.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim June 3, 2001, as National Child's Day. I encourage all Americans to share in the mission of preparing our young people for life's challenges and opportunities. By reading to youngsters, listening to their cares and concerns, and providing